

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SY-07

USSS-00 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 NIC-01

OMB-01 AID-20 FBO-01 PER-05 RSR-01 /141 W

----- 037588

O R 110955 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1580

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS 2932

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4186

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR US LE

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF ISRAELI RAID ON BEIRU - SITREP 1

FOL IS GENERAL SITUATION MID- MORNING APRIL 11
BEIRUT TIME.

IN VIEW FACT THAT SCENE SHIFTS FREQUENTLY WE WILL SUBMIT
SERIES OF SITREPS DURING CURRENT EMERGENCY, TO WHICH WE WILL
ASSIGN THIS NUMBER 1.

1. SITUATION CURRENTLY QUIET. WE HAVE RE- OPEN EMBASSY
FOR NORMAL BUSINESS, BUT ARE KEEPING CLOSE EYE ON
DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED AND READY TO SECURE QUICKLY
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IF NECESSARY.

2. VARIOUS PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST ORGANS CONTINUE WHIP UP ANTI- AMERICAN SENTIMENT WITH EVEN GREATER EMPHASIS ON ALLEGED US EMBASSY BEIRUT COLLUSION WITH ISRAELI ATTACKERS. PLO ORGAN (WAFU) FRONT PAGES THIS. LEAFLETS BEING DISTRIBUTED AROUND TOWN TO SAME EFFECT AND CARS WITH LOUDSPEAKERS WERE SPREADING SAME LIE WIDELY AROUND BEIRUT LATE LAST EVENING. THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE DISTURBED BY FBIS LONDON REPORT QUOTING ALGIERS VOICE OF PALESTINE. IT NOT ONLY CONTAINS SAME ALLEGATION, BUT CALLS ON ARAB MASSES " TO STRIKE EVERYWHERE AT AMERICAN INTERESTS AND EMBASSIES AND TO KILL AND ASSASSINATE EVERYONE WHO IS AMERICAN". (COULD NOT USINT ALGIERS BE INSTRUCTED MAKE VIGOROUS PROTEST TO GOA ABOUT SUCH INFLAMMATORY PROPAGANDA?)

3. PRESIDENT FRANGIE STILL CONSIDERING PRIME MINISTER' S SUBMISSION OF CABINET' S RESIGNATION LAST NIGHT. THIS WILL BE SUBJ OF SEPTEL. POINT TO BE MADE HERE IS GOL OPERATING FROM POSITION OF TREMENDOUS WEAKNESS AND OBVIOUS EMBARRASSMENT AT SUCCESS OF ISRAELI ATTACK IN HEART OF DOWNTOWN BEIRUT. SOME MARCHERS YESTERDAY CALLED FOR SAEB SALAM' S HEAD AND HE WAS PELTED WITH GARBAGE WHEN VISITING ONE SITE OF ISRAELI ATTACK.

4. AGAINST FOREGOING BACKDROP, FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE TODAY AND TOMORROW. TODAY' S CEREMONIES, WE THINK, WILL BE ESSENTIALLY WARM UP FOR MASSIVE AFFAIR TOMORROW AFTERNOON WHICH PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST GROUPS HAVE CALLED ON PUBLIC TO MAKE BIGGEST IN HISTROY OF COUNTRY. AT THAT TIME FUNERALS WILL BE HELD FOR TOP FEDAYEEN LEADERS WHO WERE KILLED AND ARAB GOVTS HAVE BEEN INVITED SEND SPECIAL REPS MAKING THIS A MAJOR OCCASION.

5. PALESTINIANS CLEARLY SEEKING TO MAKE US EMBASSY A MAJOR OBJECT OF ATTACK AND WE ARE MAKING SURE GOL KNOWS THIS IN REQUESTING REINSTITUTION OF EXPANDED SECURITY MEASURES WHEN SITUATION REQUIRES. (GOL RESPONSE YESTERDAY WAS QUICK AND IMPRESSIVE ALTHOUGH CONFIDENTIAL

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BEST ESTIMATE OF CROWD SIZE WHICH FORMED DOWNTOWN

AT THAT TIME AND LATER DIVERTED WAS ONLY ABOUT 7,000.)
WHAT GOL WILL BE ABLE TO DO GIVEN SUBSEQUENT TENDER OF GOVT' S
RESIGNATION AND IN FACE OF ANTICIPATED MASS DEMONSTRATION
REMAINS TO BE EEN. I AM CONFIDENT THAT FRANGIE WIL
DO HIS BEST. IF PRESS REPORTS ARE CORRECT, HE
RESISTED SAEB SALAM' S ALLEGED DEMANDS YESTERDAY
FOR RESIGNATION OF ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL GHANEM.
GHANEM IS TOUGH ANTI- PALESTINIAN AND WITH FRANGIE' S
ENDORSEMENT, I FEEL SURE WOULD GIVE FIRM INSTRUCTIONS
TO TROOPS NOT TO PERMIT HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST EMBASSY.
BUFFUM

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